



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

***Raised Bill No. 6478***

LCO No. 3360

Referred to Committee on Select Committee on Children

Introduced by:  
(KID)

***AN ACT CONCERNING PARENT AND SIBLING VISITATION FOR  
CHILDREN IN THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) The Commissioner of  
2       Children and Families shall ensure that a child placed in the care and  
3       custody of the commissioner pursuant to an order of temporary  
4       custody or an order of commitment is provided visitation with such  
5       child's parents and siblings, unless otherwise ordered by the court. (1)  
6       Such visits with parents shall occur as frequently as reasonably  
7       possible, based upon consideration of the best interests of the child,  
8       including the age and developmental level of the child, and shall be  
9       sufficient in number and duration to ensure continuation of the  
10      relationship. (2) In the case of siblings, the commissioner shall, based  
11      upon the best interests of the child, ensure that a child who has an  
12      existing relationship with a sibling and who is separated as a result of  
13      intervention by the commissioner, including, but not limited to,  
14      placement in a foster home or in the home of a relative, has access to  
15      and visitation rights with such sibling throughout the duration of such  
16      placement. In determining the number, frequency and duration of

17 such visits, the commissioner shall consider the best interests of each  
18 sibling, given each child's age and developmental level and the  
19 continuation of the sibling relationship. (3) The commissioner shall  
20 include in each child's plan of treatment information relating to the  
21 factors considered in making visitation determinations pursuant to this  
22 section. If the commissioner determines that such visits are not in the  
23 best interests of the child, or that the number, frequency or length of  
24 the visits requested by the child's attorney or guardian ad litem is not  
25 in the best interests of the child, the commissioner shall include the  
26 reasons for such determination in the child's plan of treatment.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

***Statement of Purpose:***

To ensure that children placed in the care and custody of the Commissioner of Children and Families visit with their parents and siblings, consistent with the developmental level and age of the child.

***[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]***